

## PROJECT ABSTRACT

This application meets the Secretary’s absolute and competitive priorities for *improving learning outcomes, enabling more data-based decision making, and the effective use of technology*. All activities in this application are informed by careful analysis of data and supported through connected professional development. Through the MT Literacy Plan (MLP), the Montana Striving Reader’s Project (MSRP) is committed to dramatically improving literacy achievement for all students, especially disadvantaged students, and to providing support systems for all subgrantee LEAs (district-operated K-12 schools and special education preschools) and Head Start programs. Through a collaborative process, six teams (see Table 1) will ensure that comprehensive, effective literacy instruction, based on evidence and ongoing data analysis, will be effectively implemented. The Implementation Teams will coordinate implementation of project goals (see Tables 2 and 8) in the LEAs and Head Start programs. The Statewide Teams will continually evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation and continually provide the support and resources necessary for increased outcomes, and sharing of resources with all LEAs and Head Start programs throughout Montana. The MT OPI Implementation Team will oversee all six teams and the entire MSRP.

<b>Table 1: MSRP Teams</b>	<b>Role</b> (see Table 12 for First-Year Management Timeline)
<b>MT Office of Public Instruction (OPI) <u>Implementation</u> Team</b> (see Table 13)	To implement the MT Literacy Plan activities and coordinate all implementation and statewide teams (see Table 12 for activities, indicators, and responsibilities).
<b>Instructional Consultant <u>Implementation</u> Team</b>	To provide on-site support for subgrantees in implementing MT Literacy Plan activities.
<b>On-site Leadership <u>Implementation</u> Team</b>	To identify needs through Self-Assessments, keep community partners informed, acquire necessary resources, rework existing structures, create necessary time for instruction through schedule changes and various meetings, and monitor complete MSRP subgrant implementation.
<b>MT OPI <u>Statewide</u> Divisions Team</b> (see Appendix 6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Title I</u></li> <li>• <u>Special Education</u></li> <li>• <u>Accreditation</u></li> <li>• <u>Indian Education for All</u></li> <li>• <u>Career and Technical Education</u></li> <li>• <u>Measurement and Accountability</u></li> <li>• <u>Centralized Services</u></li> </ul>	To ensure statewide support and alignment of a coherent approach to funding and implementing effective literacy instruction for disadvantaged students.  To ensure effective use of technology as a critical tool for improving learning outcomes and to increase teacher effectiveness. The word <b>technology</b> is indicated in boldface type throughout the grant to demonstrate MSRP’s commitment to meeting the Competitive Preference Priority.
<b>Montana <u>Statewide</u> Literacy Team</b> (see Appendix 6)	To develop, update, implement, and continuously improve the MT Literacy Plan to address the needs of children birth

	through age 5 and students grades K-12.
<b>MT Statewide Community Partners Team</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(see Appendix 6 for full descriptions of partners)</li> </ul>	To meet quarterly with partners to share program data, and to collaborate to implement evidence-based language and literacy instruction for LEAs and early learning programs.

The MSRP will achieve the following goals through systemic processes that 1) begin with a **self assessment** grounded in effective practices aligned with the MT Literacy Plan; 2) follow with an **action plan** to ensure successful implementation of the phases of implementation (exploring, implementing and sustaining); and 3) are driven by a **continuous improvement cycle**. The implementation of these three processes will result in an increase in school readiness and success from birth through grade 12 for all subgrantees.

<b>Table 2. Goals of Montana Striving Readers Project (MSRP)</b>	
<b>Goal</b>	<b>Description of Goal</b>
1.	To further develop and implement a MT Literacy Plan that makes provisions for literacy at all age/grade levels, including challenging transitions from preschool to elementary, elementary to middle school, and middle school to high school are aligned to MT Standards for English Language Arts and MT Early Learning Guidelines, involves collaborating with other agencies, and addresses literacy across the content areas.
2.	To run a rigorous, competitive subgrant application process, which will select LEAs (district-operated K-12 schools and special education preschools) and Head Start programs that have a high capacity to implement comprehensive, effective literacy instruction that meets the needs of disadvantaged children and students.
3.	To improve school readiness and success from birth through grade 12 in the area of language and literacy development. For disadvantaged students, the MSRP will set and achieve the following targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the percentage of participating four-year olds who achieve significant gains in oral language skills as identified by the ISIP early reading assessments</li> <li>• Increase the percentage of participating fifth-grade, eighth-grade, and high-school students who meet or exceed proficiency on the MT State English language arts assessment, the MontCAS</li> <li>• Increase the percentage of all subgroups including American Indian, disadvantaged, and limited-English proficient students, as well as students with disabilities.</li> </ul>
4.	To fully implement a data-based decision making process to collect, analyze, and use high- quality data in a timely manner to assess the effectiveness of the MT Literacy Plan in meeting the targets in Goal 3, both statewide and at the LEAs and Head Starts.
5.	To decrease the percentage of participating high school students who drop out of high school and, therefore increase the graduation rate at all participating high schools.

The MSRP is anticipating awarding between 25 and 35 subgrant sites (see Table 16 for range of LEAs and Head Start programs) located throughout the State benefiting over 8,000 children and youth and 500 teachers. The eligible subgrantees are located throughout MT from Lame Deer to Libby. From previous subgrant experiences (Reading First and RTI Project), we anticipate LEAs and Head Start programs scattered throughout the state with numerous on or near the seven Indian Reservations.